AIKENS, Sir James Albert Manning [Lieutenant-Gov. Manitoba] March, 1919 (007)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
WINNIPEG

13th March 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President Toronto University,
Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert,

You are, I believe, well informed concerning the proposed National Conference on Moral Education in the Schools in relation to Canadian Citizenship. I am enclosing the leaflet issued under the authority of the provisional committee, in which on the first and second pages is a short explanation of the movement.

You will see that the conference is to be held in Winnipeg August 25th to 27th. You are in sympathy with the effort that has been made to strengthen youthful education in the direction of the development of character and training for good citizenship. At the convention the various subjects mentioned in the leaflet will be considered. The members of the programme committee are unanimous in their wish that you should not only take part in this conference but speak on the subject "the Development of National Character through Education". Your Time The time of all public spirited, thoughtful men is fully occupied not only with ordinary duties but with extraordinary ones arising out of after war conditions. You with others of us believe that the almost limitless efforts and sacrifices/

sacrifices made by the English speaking peoples will not be redeemed from failure unless a new starting point is now made in constructive development. Proper education in character is one means toward such an end.

It is the hope of the committee whose invitation I am transmitting that you may be able not only to be present and speak on the subject, but to stimulate the interest of others, so that the convention may be not only interesting but very influential for its purpose.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Sam Aikins

March 22nd, 1919

The Honourable Sir James A. M. Aikens,

Government House, Winnipeg, Man.

My dear Sir James:

I have been considering your letter in which you ask me to go to Winnipeg for August 25th -27th to take part in the Conference as well as speak on the first afternoon. I realise that it is the duty of us who are in the Western parts of Canada to co-operate to the fullest extent that we can to make the effort of our Winnipeg friends a success. I regret, however, that you have placed the date of the Conference towards the end of August for personal reasons. This has been an extremely heavy year with me, and as far as I can judge at present I shall have very little free time until at least the beginning of July, and there is no likelihood of my leaving for my holiday until the middle of July this year. I need a holiday and was hoping for a rest, but to start out about the 20th of August to attend a Convention is really only to give me about a month's holiday this year. If it had been a week later it would have suited me very much better. I do not like to say definitely I will not go, and yet I hesitate to come to a final decision immediately. Naturally I do not wish to be remiss in my duty to the country or the public in this matter if

it is the judgment of the influential committee that I should be there, but the expense of the journey combined with inroads that it would make upon my time have made me hesitate for the moment. This is not, however, any final decision and I shall be glad to hear from you again.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE
WINNIPEG

Personal

31st March 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert,

I have your letter of the 22nd and thank you for expressing so fully your thought. At a meeting of the small provisional executive committee today where your letter was read, the question of the postponement of the holding of the meeting was under consideration, and possibly it may be postponed. We are very desirous of having your co-operation and the co-operation of leaders in education in Ontario. I imagine that in the west we feel more keenly the need of progressive action in moral education than you may in the east. It however is needed all over Canada.

It was expected that the committee would bear the expense of those who are to address the Conference on leading subjects.

I will write you later as to what will be done in respect of postponement by the convening committee when it meets.

Sincerely yours,

Salmarius